

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

In re: PARAQUAT PRODUCTS LIABILITY)
LITIGATION) Case No. 3:21-md-03004-NJR
This Document Relates to) Case No. 3:21-pq-00709
Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER ONLY) MDL No. 3004

Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiff”), by and through counsel MOTLEY RICE, LLC, alleges upon information and belief and complains of Defendants Syngenta AG (“SAG”) and Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC (“SCPLLC”) (together with their predecessors-in-interest, referred to collectively as the “Syngenta Defendants”); Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (together with its predecessors-in-interest, referred to collectively as the “Chevron Defendants”); and Does One through Sixty, and states:

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

1. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER suffers from Parkinson’s disease caused by his exposure to the herbicide Paraquat.

2. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER is a Ohio resident.

3. Defendants are companies that since 1964 have manufactured, distributed, licensed, marketed, and sold Paraquat for use in the United States, including California.

4. Plaintiff brings this action to recover damages for personal injuries resulting from exposure to Paraquat manufactured, distributed, and sold by Defendants.

5. Defendants’ tortious conduct, including their negligent acts and omissions in the research, testing, design, manufacture, marketing, and sale of Paraquat, caused Plaintiff’s injuries. At all relevant times, Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, that Paraquat was a highly toxic substance that can cause severe neurological injuries and impairment, and should have taken steps in their research, manufacture, and sale of Paraquat to ensure that people would not be harmed by foreseeable uses of Paraquat.

JURISDICTION

1 b. Plaintiff's claims against each Defendant arise out of these contacts between the
2 Defendant and/or its predecessor(s), together with those with whom they were acting in
3 concert, with the State of California; and

4 c. These contacts between each Defendant and/or its predecessors, together with
5 those with whom they were acting in concert, and the State of California, were so regular,
6 frequent, and sustained as to provide fair warning that it might be hauled into court there,
7 such that requiring it to defend this action in the State of California does not offend
8 traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

9 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

10 10. This action arises from the actions of Defendants – and, in particular, the actions of
11 Defendant Chevron U.S.A., Inc. Defendant Chevron U.S.A., Inc. is a Pennsylvania corporation
12 with its principal place of business in San Ramon in Contra Costa County, California. Pursuant to
13 Local Rule 3-2(c), this claim may be assigned to either the San Francisco Division or the Oakland
14 Division.

15 **PARTIES**

16 11. The true names or capacities whether individual, corporate, governmental or
17 associate, of the defendants named herein as Doe are unknown to Plaintiff who therefore sues said
18 defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff prays leave to amend this Complaint to show their
19 true names and capacities and/or bases for liability when the same have been finally determined.

20 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief alleges,
21 that each of the defendants designated herein as Doe is strictly, negligently, or otherwise legally
22 responsible in some manner for the events and happenings herein referred to, and negligently or
23 otherwise caused injury and damages proximately thereby to Plaintiff as is hereinafter alleged.

24 13. At all times herein mentioned each and every of the Defendants was the agent,
25 servant, employee, joint venturer, alter ego, successor-in-interest, and predecessor-in-interest of
26 each of the other, and each was acting within the course and scope of their agency, service, joint
27 venture, alter ego relationship, employment, and corporate interrelationship.

1 14. U.K. manufacturer Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. a/k/a Imperial Chemical
2 Industries PLC (“ICI”) first introduced Paraquat to world markets in or about 1962 under the
3 brand name GRAMOXONE®.

4 15. In or about 1971, ICI created or acquired a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary
5 organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, which was ultimately known as ICI Americas
6 Inc. (“ICI Americas”).

7 16. Chevron Chemical Company was a corporation organized under the laws of the
8 State of Delaware.

9 17. Pursuant to distribution and licensing agreements with ICI and ICI Americas,
10 Chevron Chemical Company had exclusive rights to distribute and sell Paraquat in the United
11 States and did in fact manufacture, formulate, distribute, and sell Paraquat in the United States,
12 including in California for use in California, from approximately 1964 until approximately 1986.

13 18. Chevron U.S.A. Inc. is the successor-in-interest to Chevron Chemical Company.

14 19. At all relevant times, Chevron Chemical Company acted as the agent of Chevron
15 U.S.A. Inc. in selling and distributing Paraquat in the U.S. At all relevant times, Chevron
16 Chemical Company was acting within the scope of its agency in selling and distributing Paraquat.
17 Chevron U.S.A. Inc. is liable for the acts of its agent.

18 20. From approximately 1964 through approximately 1986, pursuant to distribution
19 and licensing agreements with Chevron Chemical Company, SAG’s and/or SCPLLC’s
20 predecessors-in-interest, ICI and ICI Americas, and Does One through Sixty manufactured some
21 or all of the Paraquat that Chevron Chemical Company distributed and sold in the United States,
22 including in California for use in California.

23 21. From approximately 1964 through approximately 1986, pursuant to distribution
24 and licensing agreements between and among them, ICI, ICI Americas, Chevron Chemical
25 Company, and Does One through Sixty acted in concert to register, manufacture, formulate, and
26 distribute and sell (through Chevron Chemical Company) Paraquat for use in the U.S., including
27 in California for use in California, and their respective successors-in-interest, SAG, SCPLLC, and
28 Chevron U.S.A. Inc., are jointly liable for the resulting injuries alleged herein.

1 22. After 1986, SCPLLC, Does One through Sixty, and/or their predecessors-in-
2 interest sold and distributed and continue to sell and distribute Paraquat in the United States,
3 including in California for use in California.

4 23. As a result of mergers and corporate restructuring, SAG is the successor-in-interest
5 to ICI.

6 24. As a result of mergers and corporate restructuring, SCPLLC is the successor-in-
7 interest to ICI Americas, Inc.

8 25. Thus, from approximately 1964 through the present, the Syngenta Defendants,
9 Does One through Sixty, or their predecessors-in-interest have manufactured, formulated,
10 distributed, and sold Paraquat for use in the U.S., including in California for use in California.
11

12 **PLAINTIFF'S EXPOSURE TO PARAQUAT**

13 26. At all relevant times, Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER worked in the agricultural
14 business/logging industry—working as a certified herbicide applicator—and in this capacity was
15 exposed to Paraquat from the early 1970's until approximately early 2018: (1) when it was mixed,
16 loaded, applied, and/or cleaned; (2) as a result of spray drift (the movement of herbicide spray
17 droplets from the target area to an area where herbicide application was not intended, typically by
18 wind); and/or (3) as a result of contact with sprayed plants.

19 27. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that when Paraquat was used in
20 the intended or a reasonably foreseeable manner, users of Paraquat and persons within the
21 proximity of that use would be exposed to it.

22 28. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that Paraquat could enter the
23 human body: (1) through absorption or penetration of the skin, mucous membranes, and other
24 epithelial tissues (including tissues of the mouth, nose and nasal passages, trachea, and conducting
25 airways, particularly where cuts, abrasions, rashes, sores, or other tissue damage were present); (2)
26 through the olfactory bulb; (3) through respiration into the lungs; and (4) through ingestion into
27 the digestive tract of small droplets swallowed after entering the mouth, nose, or conducting
28 airways.

PARAQUAT CAUSES PARKINSON'S DISEASE

29. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that Paraquat that entered a human body could ultimately enter the brain.

30. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that Paraquat that entered a human body could induce the misfolding of the alpha synuclein protein.

31. Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder of the brain that affects primarily the motor system-the part of the central nervous system that controls movement.

32. The characteristic symptoms of Parkinson's disease are its "primary" motor symptoms: resting tremor (shaking movement when the muscles are relaxed), bradykinesia (slowness in voluntary movement and reflexes), rigidity (stiffness and resistance to passive movement), and postural instability (impaired balance).

33. Parkinson's disease's primary motor symptoms often result in "secondary" motor symptoms such as freezing of gait; shrinking handwriting; mask-like expression; slurred, monotonous, quiet voice; stooped posture; muscle spasms; impaired coordination; difficulty swallowing; and excess saliva and drooling caused by reduced swallowing movements.

34. Non-motor symptoms-such as loss of or altered sense of smell; constipation; low blood pressure on rising to stand; sleep disturbances; and depression-are present in most cases of Parkinson's disease, often for years before any of the primary motor symptoms appear.

35. There is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease; no treatment will stop or reverse its progression; and the treatments most commonly prescribed for its motor symptoms tend to become progressively less effective, and to increasingly cause unwelcome side effects, the longer they are used.

36. One of the primary pathophysiological hallmarks of Parkinson's disease is the selective degeneration and death of dopaminergic neurons (dopamine-producing nerve cells) in a part of the brain called the substantia nigra pars compacta ("SNpc").

1 37. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter (a chemical messenger that transmits signals from
2 one neuron to another neuron, muscle cell, or gland cell) that is critical to the brain's control of
3 motor function (among other things).

4 38. The death of dopaminergic neurons in the SNpc decreases the production of
5 dopamine. Once dopaminergic neurons die, they are not replaced; when enough dopaminergic
6 neurons have died, dopamine production falls below the level the brain requires for proper control
7 of motor function, resulting in the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

8 39. The presence of Lewy bodies (insoluble aggregates of a protein called alpha-
9 synuclein) in many of the remaining dopaminergic neurons in the SNpc is another of the primary
10 pathophysiological hallmarks of Parkinson's disease.

11 40. Dopaminergic neurons are particularly susceptible to oxidative stress, a disturbance
12 in the normal balance between oxidants present in cells and cells' antioxidant defenses.

13 41. Scientists who study Parkinson's disease generally agree that oxidative stress is a
14 major factor in-if not the precipitating cause of-the degeneration and death of dopaminergic
15 neurons in the SNpc and the accumulation of Lewy bodies in the remaining dopaminergic neurons
16 that are the primary pathophysiological hallmarks of the disease.

17 42. Paraquat is highly toxic to both plants and animals, creating oxidative stress that
18 causes or contributes to cause the degeneration and death of plant or animal cells.

19 43. Paraquat creates oxidative stress in the cells of plants and animals because of
20 "redox properties" that are inherent in its chemical composition and structure: it is a strong
21 oxidant, and it readily undergoes "redox cycling" in the presence of molecular oxygen, which is
22 plentiful in living cells.

23 44. The redox cycling of Paraquat in living cells interferes with cellular functions that
24 are necessary to sustain life-with photosynthesis in plant cells, and with cellular respiration in
25 animal cells. The redox cycling of Paraquat in living cells creates a "reactive oxygen species"
26 known as superoxide radical, an extremely reactive molecule that can initiate a cascading series of
27 chemical reactions that creates other reactive oxygen species that damage lipids, proteins, and
28 nucleic acids, molecules that are essential components of the structures and functions of living

1 cells. Because the redox cycling of Paraquat can repeat indefinitely in the conditions typically
2 present in living cells, a single molecule of Paraquat can trigger the production of countless
3 molecules of destructive superoxide radical.

4 45. Paraquat's redox properties have been known to science since at least the 1930s.

5 46. It has been scientifically known since the 1960s that Paraquat (due to its redox
6 properties) is toxic to the cells of plants and animals. The same redox properties that make
7 Paraquat toxic to plant cells and other types of animal cells make it toxic to dopaminergic neurons
8 in humans—that is, Paraquat is a strong oxidant that interferes with the function of, damages, and
9 ultimately kills dopaminergic neurons in the human brain by creating oxidative stress through
10 redox cycling.

11 47. Paraquat is one of only a handful of toxins that scientists use to produce animal
12 models of Parkinson's disease, i.e., use in a laboratory to artificially produce the symptoms of
13 Parkinson's disease in animals.

14 48. Animal studies involving various routes of exposure have found that Paraquat
15 creates oxidative stress that results in the degeneration and death of dopaminergic neurons in the
16 SNpc, other pathophysiology consistent with that seen in human Parkinson's disease, and motor
17 deficits and behavioral changes consistent with those commonly seen in human Parkinson's
18 disease.

19 49. Hundreds of in vitro studies (experiments in a test tube, culture dish, or other
20 controlled experimental environment) have found that Paraquat creates oxidative stress that results
21 in the degeneration and death of dopaminergic neurons (and many other types of animal cells).

22 50. Epidemiological studies have found that exposure to Paraquat significantly
23 increases the risk of contracting Parkinson's disease. A number of studies have found that the risk
24 of Parkinson's disease is more than double in populations with occupational exposure to Paraquat
25 compared to populations without such exposure.

26 51. These convergent lines of evidence (toxicology, animal experiments, and
27 epidemiology) demonstrate that Paraquat exposure generally can cause Parkinson's disease.
28

PARAQUAT REGULATION

52. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (“FIFRA”), 7 U.S.C. § 136 et seq., which regulates the distribution, sale, and use of pesticides within the U.S., requires that pesticides be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) prior to their distribution, sale, or use, except as described by FIFRA. 7 U.S.C. 136a(a).

53. The California Food & Agric. Code § D. 7, Ch. 2, which regulates the labeling, distribution, use, and application of pesticides within the State of California, requires that pesticides be registered with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (“CDPR”) before they are offered for sale in the State of California. Cal. Food & Agric. Code § 12811.

54. Paraquat is a “restricted use pesticide” under federal law, see 40 C.F.R. § 152.175, which means it is “limited to use by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator,” and is a “restricted material” under California law, see Cal. Code Regs. tit. 3, § 6400(e), which means it cannot be sold, used, or possessed by any person in California without the proper licensing and permitting.

55. As part of the pesticide registration process, the EPA requires, among other things, a variety of tests to evaluate the potential for exposure to pesticides, toxicity to people and other potential non-target organisms, and other adverse effects on the environment.

56. As a general rule, FIFRA requires registrants, the chemical companies registered to sell the pesticides, to perform health and safety testing of pesticides. However, FIFRA does not require the EPA itself to perform health and safety testing of pesticides, and the EPA generally does not perform such testing.

57. The EPA registers (or re-registers) a pesticide if it is persuaded, based largely on studies and data submitted by the registrant, that: (1) its composition is such as to warrant the proposed claims for it, 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(A); (2) its labeling and other material required to be submitted comply with the requirements of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(B); (3) it will perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(C); and (4) when used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized

1 practice it will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, 7 U.S.C. §
2 136a(c)(5)(D).

3 58. FIFRA defines “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment” as “any
4 unreasonable risk to man or the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and
5 environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide.” 7 U.S.C. § 136(bb).

6 59. Under FIFRA, “[a]s long as no cancellation proceedings are in effect registration
7 of a pesticide shall be prima facie evidence that the pesticide, its labeling and packaging comply
8 with the registration provisions of [FIFRA].” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(f)(2). However, FIFRA further
9 provides that “[i]n no event shall registration of an article be construed as a defense for the
10 commission of any offense under [FIFRA].” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(f)(2).

11 60. The distribution or sale of a pesticide that is misbranded is an offense under
12 FIFRA, which provides in relevant part that “it shall be unlawful for any person in any State to
13 distribute or sell to any person ... any pesticide which is ... misbranded.” 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E).
14 A pesticide is misbranded under FIFRA if, among other things: (1) its labeling bears any
15 statement, design, or graphic representation relative thereto or to its ingredients which is false or
16 misleading in any particular, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(A); (2) the labeling accompanying it does not
17 contain directions for use which are necessary for effecting the purpose for which the product is
18 intended and if complied with, together with any requirements imposed under section 136a(d) of
19 this title, are adequate to protect health and the environment, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(F); or (3) the
20 label does not contain a warning or caution statement which may be necessary and if complied
21 with, together with any requirements imposed under section 136a(d) of this title, is adequate to
22 protect health and the environment,” 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(G).

23 61. As a result, a pesticide may be misbranded despite an EPA determination that it
24 met FIFRA’s registration criteria. In other words, notwithstanding its registration, a pesticide is
25 misbranded if its label contains “false or misleading” statements, has inadequate instructions for
26 use, or omits warnings or cautionary statements necessary to protect human health. Similarly, a
27 pesticide may be found to cause unreasonable adverse effects on humans when used according to
28 the approved label despite a determination by the EPA that it would not.

62. Plaintiff does not seek in this action to impose on Defendants any labeling or packaging requirement in addition to or different from those required under FIFRA. Any allegation in this Complaint that a Defendant breached a duty to provide adequate directions for the use of or warnings about Paraquat, breached a duty to provide adequate packaging for Paraquat, concealed, suppressed, or omitted to disclose any material fact about Paraquat, or engaged in any unfair or deceptive practice regarding Paraquat, is intended and should be construed to be consistent with that alleged breach, concealment, suppression, or omission, or unfair or deceptive practice having rendered the Paraquat “misbranded” under FIFRA. However, Plaintiff brings claims and seeks relief in this action only under state law, and does not bring any claims or seek any relief in this action under FIFRA.

Acts of Syngenta Defendants

63. SAG is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland, with its principal place of business in Basel, Switzerland. It is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate predecessors, including but not limited to ICI.

64. SCPLLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. It is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate predecessors, including but not limited to ICI Americas. SCPLLC is registered with the State of California, Secretary of State to do business in the State of California.

65. SCPLLC or its corporate predecessors have sufficient minimum contacts with the State of California and have purposefully availed themselves of the privileges of conducting business in the State of California, in that they:

a. secured and maintained the registration of Paraquat products and other pesticides with the CDPR to enable themselves and others to manufacture, distribute, sell, and use these products in the State of California;

b. marketed, licensed, advertised, distributed, sold, and delivered Paraquat and other pesticides to chemical companies, licensees, distributors, and dealers whom they expected to distribute and sell Paraquat and other pesticides in or for use in the State of

California, including the Chevron Defendants and “Syngenta Retailers,” as well as to applicators and farmers in the State of California;

c. employed or utilized sales representatives to market and sell Paraquat and other pesticides in California;

d. maintained several locations throughout the State of California, including in the towns of Sanger, Granite Bay and Roseville;

e. attended meetings of the CDPR’s Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee relating to the registration of their pesticides, including Paraquat;

f. sponsored continuing education seminars for the CDPR at various locations in the State of California, including the towns of Oxnard, Seal Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Somis, Orcutt, Woodland and Pala;

g. utilized California state courts to promote their pesticide business, including filing an action against the CDPR and another pesticide manufacturer for allegedly using Syngenta data to obtain approval of pesticides for others without its consent, *see Syngenta Crop Prot., Inc. v. Helliker* (2006) 138 Cal.App.4th 1135; and filing an action against the California EPA’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment challenging the agency’s decision to list its pesticide atrazine as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity under Proposition 65, *see Syngenta Crop Protection v. OEHHA* (Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2014-800001868); and

h. performed and funded the testing of pesticides in the State of California.

66. SCPLLC’s contacts with the State of California are related to or gave rise to this controversy.

67. SAG exercises an unusually high degree of control over SCPLLC, such that SCPLLC is the agent or mere instrumentality of SAG. SCPLLC’s contacts with California are thus imputed to SAG for purposes of jurisdiction. *See City of Greenville, Ill. v. Syngenta Crop Prot., Inc.*, 830 F. Supp. 2d 550 (S.D. Ill. 2011).

Acts of Chevron Defendants

1 68. Chevron U.S.A., Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of
2 Pennsylvania, with its headquarters and principal place of business in San Ramon, California.

3 69. Does One through Sixty are corporate entities which are agents, joint venturers,
4 alter-egos, successors-in-interest, and predecessors-in-interest to Chevron U.S.A., Inc. Does One
5 through Sixty were each acting within the course and scope of their agency, joint venture, alter-
6 ego relationship, and corporate interrelationship. The exact nature, relation, and corporate
7 structure of Does One through Sixty have not yet been finally determined. Plaintiff reserves the
8 right to amend this complaint with corporate allegations when they are finally determined.

9 70. Jurisdiction is proper over Chevron U.S.A. Inc. because it is a California resident
10 and citizen, maintaining its principal place of business and headquarters in California.

11
12 **DEFENDANTS' TORTIOUS CONDUCT RESULTED IN WILLIAM FACEMYER**
13 **DEVELOPING PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

14 71. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER hereby refers to, incorporates, and re-alleges by
15 this reference as though set forth in full, each and every allegation hereinabove and makes them a
16 part of the following allegations.

17 72. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER is a resident and citizen of Pomeroy, Ohio.

18 73. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was exposed to Paraquat manufactured and sold
19 by Defendants.

20 74. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was in agricultural business and owned a
21 logging business until at least early 2018. In or around 1985, he became a certified herbicide
22 applicator, and mixed Paraquat, transferred it into application equipment, sprayed it, and cleaned
23 the equipment.

24 75. During this time, Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was in close contact to the
25 Paraquat that was designed, manufactured, and distributed by Defendants, and each of them.
26 During that time, Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER would also mix, load, spray, and/or clean
27 Paraquat.
28

1 76. The Paraquat to which Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was exposed entered his
2 body through absorption or penetration of the skin, mucous membranes, and other epithelial
3 tissues (including tissues of the mouth, nose and nasal passages, trachea, and conducting airways,
4 particularly where cuts, abrasions, rashes, sores, or other tissue damage are present); and/or 2)
5 through the olfactory bulb; and/or 3) through respiration into the lungs; and/or 4) through
6 ingestion into the digestive tract of small droplets swallowed after entering the mouth, nose, or
7 conducting airways. Once absorbed, the Paraquat entered his bloodstream, attacked his nervous
8 system, and was substantial factor in causing him to suffer Parkinson's disease.

9 77. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in or
10 about 2021.

11 78. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER had no reason to suspect the diagnosis was
12 connected to his past Paraquat exposure.

13 79. Although Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER knew that the Paraquat to which he
14 was exposed was acutely toxic, he had no reason to suspect that chronic, low-dose exposure to
15 Paraquat could cause neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease.

16 80. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was never told, either by a medical professional,
17 by media, or by the Defendants, that chronic, low-dose exposure to Paraquat could cause him to
18 suffer Parkinson's disease.

19 81. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER first became aware of Paraquat's role in causing
20 his Parkinson's disease and the wrongful acts of the Defendants that caused or contributed to his
21 developing Parkinson's disease within a year of the filing date of this Complaint.

22 82. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER did not discover this earlier because he had no
23 reason to suspect that his working with Paraquat could cause him to suffer Parkinson's disease.

24 83. Defendants' acts and omissions were a legal, proximate, and substantial factor in
25 causing Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER to suffer severe and permanent physical injuries, pain,
26 mental anguish, and disability, and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life.

27 84. By reason of the premises, it became necessary for Plaintiff WILLIAM
28 FACEMYER to incur expenses from medical care and treatment, and related costs and expenses

1 required in the care and treatment of said injuries. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER'S damages in
2 this respect are presently unascertained as said services are still continuing.

3 85. By reason of the premises, it will be necessary for Plaintiff WILLIAM
4 FACEMYER to incur future expenses for medical care and treatment, and related costs and
5 expenses required for future care and treatment. Plaintiff's damages in this respect are presently
6 unascertained as said services are still continuing. Plaintiff prays leave to insert elements of
7 damages in this respect when the same are finally determined.

8 86. By reason of the premises, Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER has been at times
9 unable to maintain regular employment, incurring special damages in a presently unascertained
10 sum as said loss is still continuing. Plaintiff prays leave to insert elements of damages with regards
11 to past wage loss, future wage loss, and lost earning capacity when the same are finally
12 determined.

13 87. By reason of the premises, Plaintiff has suffered general (non-economic) damages
14 in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this court.

15 88. By reason of the premises, Plaintiff has suffered special (economic) damages in a
16 sum in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this court.

17
18 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

19 **COUNT I - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY DESIGN DEFECT**

20 89. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth in preceding paragraphs
21 as if fully stated herein.

22 90. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff under a products liability theory for marketing a
23 defectively-designed product, as well as for failing to adequately warn of the risk of severe
24 neurological injury caused by chronic, low-dose exposure to Paraquat.

25 91. At all relevant times, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One
26 through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold
27 Paraquat for use in the State of California.
28

1 92. At all relevant times and places, the Paraquat that Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the
2 Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors designed,
3 manufactured, distributed, and sold was used in the intended or a reasonably foreseeable manner.

4 93. Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was exposed to Paraquat that Chevron U.S.A.
5 Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors
6 designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold. As a result of that exposure, Paraquat entered
7 Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER'S body causing Plaintiff to develop Parkinson's disease.

8 94. The Paraquat that Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One
9 through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold did
10 not perform as safely as an ordinary consumer would have expected it to perform when used in the
11 intended or a reasonably foreseeable manner, in that:

12 a. as designed, manufactured, formulated and packaged Paraquat was likely to be
13 inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby
14 while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed (or
15 areas near where it had been sprayed); and

16 b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the body, it was likely to cause
17 neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated low-dose
18 exposures were likely to cause neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's disease.

19 95. Alternatively, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through
20 Sixty, and their corporate predecessors' Paraquat products were defectively designed in that the
21 risk of danger inherent in the challenged design outweighed the benefits of such design,
22 considering, among other relevant factors, the gravity of the danger posed by the challenged
23 design, the likelihood that such danger would occur, the mechanical feasibility of a safer
24 alternative design, the financial cost of an improved design, and the adverse consequences to the
25 product and to the consumer that would result from an alternative design.

26 96. The design defect existed when the Paraquat left Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta
27 Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors' possession and control.
28

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's
2 favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred,
3 attorneys' fees and all relief as this Court deems just and proper. Additionally, Plaintiff demands a
4 jury trial on all issues contained herein.

5
6 **COUNT II - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY FAILURE TO WARN**

7 97. Defendants are also liable to Plaintiff under a products liability theory based on
8 their failure to adequately warn of the risks of Paraquat. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each
9 allegation set forth in preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

10 98. When Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and
11 their corporate predecessors manufactured and sold the Paraquat to which Plaintiff was exposed, it
12 was known or knowable to Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through
13 Sixty, and their corporate predecessors in light of scientific knowledge that was generally accepted
14 in the scientific community that:

15 a. Paraquat was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was
16 likely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who
17 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been
18 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and

19 b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the body, it was likely cause latent
20 neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and that repeated, low-dose
21 exposures were likely to cause neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's disease.

22 99. The risk of contracting Parkinson's disease from chronic, low-dose exposure to
23 Paraquat presented a substantial danger to users of Paraquat when the product was used in a
24 reasonably foreseeable manner.

25 100. An ordinary consumer would not have recognized the potential risk of permanent,
26 irreversible neurological damage, including the risk of contracting Parkinson's disease, from
27 chronic, low-dose exposure to Paraquat.

1 108. When Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and
2 their corporate predecessors designed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, distributed, and sold the
3 Paraquat to which Plaintiff was exposed, it was reasonably foreseeable that Paraquat:

4 a. was likely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who
5 used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where
6 it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and

7 b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who
8 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it has been
9 sprayed or areas near where it has been sprayed, it was likely to cause neurological damage
10 that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause
11 neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's disease.

12 109. In breach of the aforementioned duty to Plaintiff, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the
13 Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors negligently:

14 a. failed to design, manufacture, formulate, and package Paraquat to make it
15 unlikely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who
16 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been
17 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed;

18 b. designed, manufactured, and formulated Paraquat such that it was likely to cause
19 neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures
20 were likely to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's
21 disease;

22 c. failed to conduct adequate research and testing to determine the extent to which
23 exposure to Paraquat was likely to occur through inhalation, ingestion, and absorption into
24 the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who
25 entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been
26 sprayed;

27 d. failed to conduct adequate research and testing to determine the extent to which
28 Paraquat spray drift was likely to occur, including its propensity to drift, the distance it was

1 likely to drift, and the extent to which Paraquat spray droplets were likely to enter the
2 bodies of persons spraying it or other persons nearby during or after spraying;

3 e. failed to conduct adequate research and testing to determine the extent to which
4 Paraquat was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was
5 both permanent and cumulative, and the extent to which repeated exposures were likely to
6 cause or contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including
7 Parkinson's disease;

8 f. failed to direct that Paraquat be used in a manner that would have made it
9 unlikely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who
10 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been
11 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and

12 g. failed to warn that Paraquat was likely to cause neurological damage that was
13 both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause clinically
14 significant neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's disease.

15 110. Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their
16 corporate predecessors knew or should have known that users would not realize the dangers of
17 exposure to Paraquat and negligently failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the foreseeable risk
18 of harm from exposure to Paraquat.

19 111. As a direct and proximate result of Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants,
20 Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors' negligence, Plaintiff suffered the
21 injuries described in this Complaint.

22 112. Additionally, in the course of designing, manufacturing, packaging, labeling,
23 distributing, and selling Paraquat, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One
24 through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors violated laws, statutes, and regulations, including
25 but not limited to: sections of Food & Agriculture Code, Division 7, Chapter 2 (Pesticides) and
26 sections of Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Division 6 (Pesticides).

27 113. Plaintiff was a member of the class of persons that said laws, statutes, and
28 regulations were intended to protect.

1 114. The violations of said laws, statutes, and regulations by Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the
2 Syngenta Defendants, and Does One through Sixty were also substantial factors in causing
3 Plaintiff's injuries.

4 115. The injuries that resulted from the violations by Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta
5 Defendants, and Does One through Sixty were the kind of occurrences the laws, statutes, and
6 regulations were designed to protect against.

7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's
8 favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred,
9 attorneys' fees and all relief as this Court deems just and proper. Additionally, Plaintiff demands a
10 jury trial on all issues contained herein.

11
12 **COUNT IV - BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY**

13 116. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth in preceding paragraphs
14 as if fully stated herein.

15 117. At all relevant times, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One
16 through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors engaged in the business of designing,
17 manufacturing, distributing, and selling Paraquat and other restricted-use pesticides and held
18 themselves out as having special knowledge or skill regarding Paraquat and other restricted-use
19 pesticides.

20 118. At all relevant times, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants, Does One
21 through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold
22 Paraquat for use in the State of California.

23 119. Plaintiff was exposed to Paraquat that Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta
24 Defendants, Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors designed, manufactured,
25 distributed, and sold.

26 120. The Paraquat to which Plaintiff WILLIAM FACEMYER was exposed was not fit
27 for the ordinary purposes for which it was used, and in particular:
28

1 a. it was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was likely
 2 to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were
 3 nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been
 4 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and

5 b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who
 6 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been
 7 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause neurological
 8 damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to
 9 cause neurodegenerative disease, including Parkinson's disease.

10 121. As a direct and proximate result of Chevron U.S.A. Inc., the Syngenta Defendants,
 11 Does One through Sixty, and their corporate predecessors' breach of implied warranty, Plaintiff
 12 suffered the injuries herein described.

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's
 14 favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred,
 15 attorneys' fees and all relief as this Court deems just and proper. Additionally, Plaintiff demands a
 16 jury trial on all issues contained herein.

17 **COUNT V- PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

18 122. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth in preceding paragraphs
 19 as if fully stated herein.

20 123. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was done with oppression, fraud, and malice.
 21 Defendants were fully aware of the safety risks of Paraquat. Nonetheless, Defendants deliberately
 22 crafted their label, marketing, and promotion to mislead farmers and consumers.

23 124. This was not done by accident or through some justifiable negligence. Rather,
 24 Defendants knew that it could turn a profit by convincing the agricultural industry that Paraquat
 25 did not cause Parkinson's Disease, and that full disclosure of the true risks of Paraquat would limit
 26 the amount of money Defendants would make selling Paraquat in California. Defendants'
 27 objective was accomplished not only through its misleading labeling, but through a comprehensive
 28 scheme of selective fraudulent research and testing, misleading advertising, and deceptive

omissions as more fully alleged throughout this pleading. Plaintiff was denied the right to make an informed decision about whether to purchase, use, or be exposed to an herbicide, knowing the full risks attendant to that use. Such conduct was done with conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights.

125. There is no indication that Defendants will stop their deceptive and unlawful marketing practices unless they are punished and deterred. Accordingly, Plaintiff requests punitive damages against the Defendants for the harms caused to Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees and all relief as this Court deems just and proper. Additionally, Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues contained herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests this Court to enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants for:

- a. actual or compensatory damages in such amount to be determined at trial and as provided by applicable law;
- b. exemplary and punitive damages sufficient to punish and deter the Defendants and others from future fraudulent practices;
- c. pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- d. costs including reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs, and other litigation expenses; and
- e. any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all of the triable issues within this pleading.

Dated: June 25, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick

Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick, RI SBN 5147

Carmen S. Scott, SC SBN 15354

Fred Thompson, III, SC SBN 5548

Chelsea L. Monroe, FED ID 12542

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Counsel for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 25, 2021, I electronically filed this Initial Complaint with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send electronic notification of such filing to counsel of record.

Dated: June 25, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick

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